

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK

Policy Council Minutes September 25, 2002

Members/Representatives Present:

- Charles Adams, Community Services Department
- Roberta York, Preschool Services Department
- Anthony Rubio, Children's Network
- Clark Morrow, San Bernardino Sheriff's Dept.
- Karen Bell, District Attorney
- Ray Wingerd, Chief of Probation
- Mel Rinewalt, Probation Department
- Ed Rowe, Children's Network
- Bruce Davis, 3rd District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Fred Aguiar, Chairman, 4th District Board of Supervisors
- Honorable Rex Victor, Juvenile Court
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Cathy Cimbalo, Director of Children's Services
- Cory Nelson, CSS
- Kathy Watkins, HSS Legislation & Research
- Dennis Zimmerman, Grand Jury
- Clyde Metzler, Grand Jury
- Joyce Lewis, Department of Behavioral Health
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Eric Frykman, Department of Public Health
- Tom Prendergast, Department of Public Health
- Mary Lynn Clark, Inland Regional Center
- Andrew Gruchy, Department of Behavioral Health
- Don Larkin, Executive Director, Children and Families Commission
- Julian Weaver, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- Terry Kramer, Department of Behavioral Health
- Gerald Farber, Public Defender Office
- Bonnie O'Connor, Executive Director, Children's Fund
- Susan Melanson, Children's Network
- Jeff Broyde, Public Defender's Office
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Network Policy Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. and convened by Honorable Rex Victor in the Citrus Room, fifth Floor, County Government Center.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Honorable Rex Victor welcomed those present and self-introductions were made. Honorable Rex Victor mentioned he was happy to be working with Kent Paxton and Children's Network staff again and to see programs adopted, programs providing outcome measures, and resources developed.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved with the following changes:

- Move up agenda items 4.4 Child Abduction Protocol and 4.6 Safe Arms for Newborns.

Motion was made to approve the modified agenda with no objection to the order.

3.0 Approval of July 24, 2002 Minutes

July 24, 2002 minutes were approved as submitted.

4.0 Information Items

4.4. Child Abduction Protocol

Clark Morrow reported: The protocol and procedures have been sped up due to the number of recent child abductions. Clark referred everyone to the procedures from the Sheriff's Office included in your packet.

There are certain criteria for children who are abducted for the ages of 17 and under such as;

- there is a danger or possibility of death
- a custody dispute is ruled out

Clark referred everyone to page 2 of the protocol.

- Watch Commander determines if the criteria is met
- Watch Commander contacts the Regional Department Chief, who gives authorization to activate the emergency alert system
- The Sheriff's Dispatch is notified.
- The Sheriff's Public affairs Officer contacts the media such as the local radio stations
- The California Highway Patrol Department then contacts Cal-Trans to set out the information boards on the freeways

- The Sheriff's Office is the main focal point of the Amber Alert System. They can update or cancel the Amber Alert System at Anytime.

Clark mentioned that a representative from the Sheriff's Office can come to your organization and give a presentation of the Amber Alert System.

Any questions? Does the Sheriff's contact the Police Departments? Department? Yes, through Dispatch. What number does the public call if they witness child abduction in San Bernardino County? The public needs to call 911. Once the Amber Alert is in place, a number is publicized for the public to call if they have any information.

ACTION: A request was made to have a dedicated number at the Sheriff's Office that the public could call for all Amber Alerts.

Clark agreed to research this request.

It was mentioned that the Amber Alert System needs to be issued within 6 to 7 hours or ASAP because that is the most critical time for the child. The Sheriff's Office determines when an Amber Alert is to be authorized with concern not to over saturate the public with Amber Alerts so that they do not become over saturated.

4.6 Safe Arms for Newborns

Kent Paxton reported that Debbie Farris from the Garden of Angels approached Senator Brulte about legislation on leaving newborns to die. Kent met with Supervisor Aguiar, Cathy Cimbalo, Debbie Farris and Susan Melanson about implementing the Safe Arms for Newborns. Kent referred everyone to information in their packets, in particular the brochure that was developed. The plan is to keep information standardized with the state. Kent will be meeting with Don Larkin of the Children and Families Commission next week to see about funding of the marketing campaign.

Kathy Watkins mentioned she sits on a legislative committee in Sacramento. She referred everyone to a handout. Kathy mentioned there are several legal issues to keep in mind when newborns are left at hospitals, etc. such as;

- mother leaves baby at the hospital
- hospital notifies Child Protective Services
- Child Protective Services has a duty to search and notify both parents of the juvenile court dependency issues

- Then there is the issue of the non-surrendering parent – father to be searched and notified of the Juvenile Court Dependency hearing.
- Then there is the right of the child to know their parentage.
- There are issues about paternity and child support payments as well.

ACTION: Kathy Watkins asked the attorneys present to please review her handouts and get back to her, so she can take the responses to her next State meeting. The proposed legislation will also be addressed by Children's Lobby.

4.1 Children's Fund Annual Report

Bonnie O'Connor referred everyone to the Annual Report in his or her packet. She also referred everyone to her slide presentation, which gave more of an update on Children's Fund activities, etc.:

- There have been some changes with the Christmas campaign with the next couple of months to be very strong working with the community.
- Just hired a Program Coordinator after a 7 month absence, Lori Carcich.
- Looking for 10,000 square foot warehouse space for the Christmas campaign.
- Working on the project of building another Juvenile Court room.
- \$400,000 has been the annual budget for items requested from line workers for families on their caseloads.
- Support continues for the Children's Assessment Center
- Collaborating with Julian Weaver and an Advisory Board to strengthen education in the East Valley for children who are homeless.
- Last Christmas provided Christmas gifts for 20,000 children and this year expect to provide Christmas gifts for 35,000 children.
- The data shows they have provided more assistance for rent, Utilities, and clothing in the 5th District.
- Plans are moving ahead to have better access by the High Desert Staff.
- There are several County Departments that access Children's Fund, with the highest user being Department of Children's Services.
- Finally, Bonnie reported they plan on forming more partnerships in order to provide the most effective services for children in the community.

4.3 Safe Summer, Annual Conference Summary

Kent Paxton reported for Susan Melanson:

- In your packet is the schedule of events attended by staff during the summer.
- Over 400,000 items were distributed on drowning prevention and not to leave your child unattended in a car.
- Kent recognized Susan's leadership in the Safe Summer campaign.
- Kent thanked everyone whom attended the 16th Annual Children's Network Conference at the Ontario Convention Center on September 6th. The attendance was high at 470. The keynote speaker, Dave Peltzer, author of "A Child Called It" was excellent.

4.5 School Linked Services

Julian Weaver reported the work with the subcommittee is moving along to identify the number of county agencies that provide services for children and their families in the local public schools. There is still some County agencies that have not gotten back to him such as; TAD, Public Defender, District Attorney, DBH, etc. The next meeting is October 10th at 8:30 a.m. at the County Government Center, 2nd Floor – Environmental Conference Room. The next major task of the subcommittee is put the information in a user-friendly format. The goal is to bring a finished product back to the Policy Council in the next couple of months.

Yesterday at the West Valley County SARB (School Attendance Review Board) meeting training was provided on solutions of how to alleviate truancy issues. The SARBs are beginning to go another direction other than just prosecuting such as; to identify the root causes of behavior problems, and use an MDT (multi-disciplinary team) approach. Julian complimented Kent Paxton and Sherman Garnett for their dedication to the SARB process.

5.0 Discussion/Action Items

5.1 Children's System of Care (CSOC) MOU Discussion and signatures are required to finalize new CSOC MOU

Andy Gruchy reported on behalf of Rudy Lopez that the budget is still not determined at this point. There still might be 20 to 38 million dollars short, so it is hard to finalize the CSOC MOU.

The state is requesting restructuring the outcomes and evaluation process. Andy estimates it will take \$800,000 just to sustain the current program. They are currently looking at possible other funding streams such as EPSDT and Healthy Families to cover the services provided by DBH. Probably the first of next year will know more about the budget.

Kent Paxton referred everyone to a handout in his or her packets on the Family Preservation Councils data, which shows how many placements, were diverted from June 2001 to June 2002. It is estimated that the savings to the county is 2.2 million dollars on the placements that were diverted. The Family Preservation Councils appear to be a very good investment. After the budget has been finalized, Andy will report back.

5.2 Discussion and action requested to forward a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for a letter of support to the State Foster Care Rates Bureau for the Mirora Group Home to receive an RCL 10 rate.

Kent Paxton referred everyone to a letter in his or her packet. The Interagency Placement Council for San Bernardino, which consists of several County agencies is recommending a rate increase from RCL 8 to RCL 10 for this group home that serves boys from 6 to 17 who have emotional and behavioral problems. The group home only accepts placements from our county.

ACTION: All were in favor to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for a letter of support to the State Foster Care Rates Bureau for the Mirora Group Home.

- 6.0** Kent reported the meeting in October will be for priority setting of 2003 of things you want to see Children's Network to focus on. Denise Walker of PERC will be the facilitator of the meeting. **ACTION: Kent asked all members to send him a memo listing 3 to 5 items they would like to see as a priority for 2003 for children in San Bernardino County.**

7.0 Public Comment

8.0 Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 23, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Williams
Children's Network Policy Council Recording Secretary